

Attorney Docket No. Enz-53(C)

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-245 (cancelled)

246. (currently amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising a modified nucleotide, a nucleotide analog, ~~a non-nucleic acid entity~~ or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a non-nucleic acid entity, which construct when present in a cell directs the synthesis of a nucleic product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers nuclease resistance, cell targeting, cellular localization or nuclear localization, or a combination of the foregoing.

247. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct or a portion thereof is linear, circular or branched.

248. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct or a portion thereof is single-stranded, double-stranded, partially double-stranded or triple-stranded.

249. (currently amended) The construct of claim 248, wherein said ~~sequence segment~~construct is in double-stranded form.

250 (previously presented) The construct of claim 248, having at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail.

251. (previously presented) The construct of claim 250, wherein said polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence.

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252. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct comprises DNA, RNA, a DNA-RNA hybrid, a DNA-RNA chimera or a combination of the foregoing.

Claims 253-254 (canceled)

255. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least one of said nucleotide analog or analogs have been modified on the backbone or sidechain or both.

256 (canceled)

257. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity or entities are a natural or synthetic polymer, a natural or synthetic ligand, or a combination thereof.

258. (previously presented) The construct of claim 257, wherein said natural polymer comprises a modified or unmodified member selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a protein, a polysaccharide, a fatty acid, and a fatty acid ester, and a combination of the foregoing.

259. (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~257~~246, wherein said synthetic polymer comprises a homopolymer or heteropolymer.

260. (previously presented) The construct of claim 259, wherein said homopolymer or heteropolymer carries a net negative charge or a net positive charge.

Claims 261-263 (canceled)

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264. (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~246~~257, wherein said ligand or ligands are attached to a single stranded segment, a double stranded segment, a single stranded construct tail, or a sequence complementary to a construct tail, or a combination of the foregoing.

265. (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~263~~257, wherein said ligand or ligands are macromolecules, small molecules, or a combination of both.

266. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct ~~carried~~ carries a net positive charge, or a net negative charge, or is neutral or hydrophobic.

267. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct comprises unmodified nucleotides and ~~at least one member selected from the group consisting of one or more nucleotide analogs, non-nucleic acid entities, and a combination thereof.~~

268. (currently amended) A nucleic acid construct which when present in a cell produces a nucleic acid product, said construct being bound ~~non-ionically~~ covalently to an entity comprising a ~~chemical modification or a ligand~~ in two or more locations on said construct.

269. (previously presented) The construct of claim 268, having at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail.

270. (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~248~~269, wherein said polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence.